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Duxbury Clipper

Pilgrim Officials Make Goodwill Visit

Officials from Entergy, Corp., the Louisiana based corporation which purchased the Pilgrim nuclear power plant from Boston Edison earlier this year, visited selectmen Monday night to express their intention to be a "good neighbor and establish dialogue".

Vice President of Operations Michael Bellamy stressed the importance of safety and oversight at the plant and attempted to quell any concerns the board might have regarding Y2K readiness saying inspectors found over 500 items that were not Y2K compliant

and replaced all of them.

Also attending were Ted Sullivan, station director, Marc Potkin, director of finance, Tom Sowden chief scientist, and David Tarantino, manager of communications.

Selectmen were officially asked by the town's Nuclear Advisory Committee at last week's meeting to write a letter to Pilgrim officials asking that they close the nuclear power station for safety reasons over the New Year's holiday.

Committee Chairman Mary Lampert said the request was

based in part on the fact that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission did not require an independent assessment of Y2K readiness to demonstrate compliance; concerns about on site back up power and lack of emergency planning drills in cooperation with Mass Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to test Y2K scenarios.

Bellamy said that in addition to a Y2K audit of the plant prepared by the NRC, separate audits by Price Waterhouse and most recently Raytheon were

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most recently Raytheon were also prepared to confirm that the plant will make the transition through Y2K without problem.

Selectmen requested and Bellamy agreed to provide summaries of those audits and copies of the NRC report.

Selectmen were assured that security systems as well as equipment will be Y2K compliant at Pilgrim.

Selectmen were also told that two diesel generators would be in place for back up power in case of an electrical outage.

Bellamy told selectmen that Entergy feels confident in keeping the plant in operation over New Year's and sees no reason to close down for safety reasons.

Lampert said later in the meeting that she did not consider the audits commissioned by Entergy as "independent" analysis of Y2K readiness and recommended that selectmen forward copies of the summaries to scientists in Washington once they receive them for a review.

Selectmen have not voted yet on whether to support the Nuclear Advisory Committee's recommendation to request a shutdown of the plant. They agreed to review the information that will be sent by Entergy before

making a decision.

Bellamy said it was not advisable to shutdown the plant unless it was determined to be an emergency.

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Selectmen were told emergency planning drills have been

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scheduled in South Shore towns in early December with a full scale drill in Duxbury planned for Dec. 7.

Selectmen asked Town Manager Rocco Longo to request copies of the audit summaries within the next two weeks so the town will have time to review them and make a decision on the Nuclear Advisory Committee's request.

Lampert maintained the town should ask for two independent studies and have the results reviewed by scientists in the nuclear field.

In a related matter, Bellamy told the board that Entergy will likely apply for extension of Pilgrim's current license to operate when it expires in 2012.